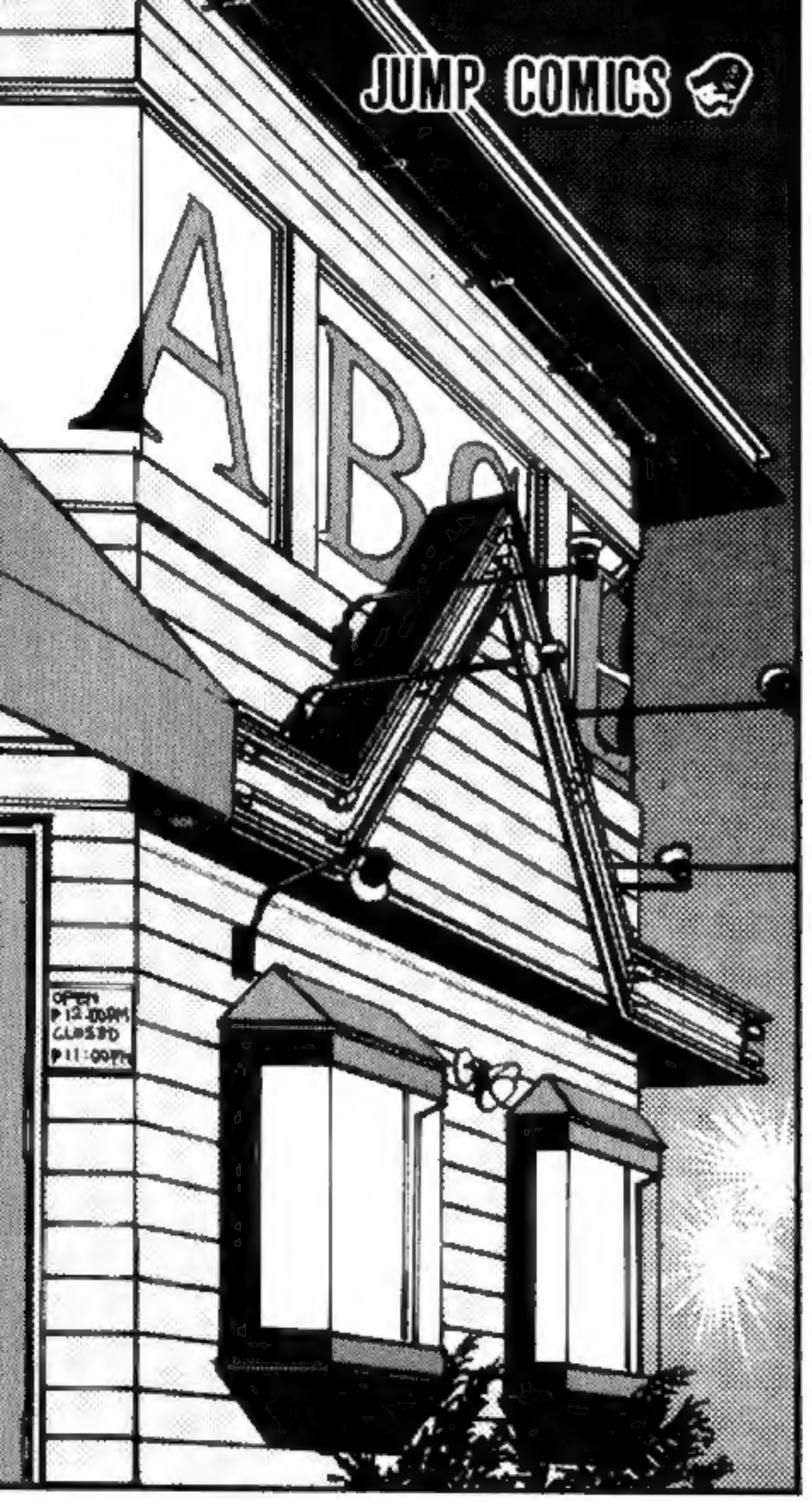

The Neverending Summer!

Kimagure Orange Road

by IZUMI MATSUMOTO ●VOL.18

Orange ★ Road 18

The Neverending Summer!

Kimagure

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The Lake of Memories

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Four and a half hours by express train from town...

Today, just to you, I introduce a wonderful summer resort that's still not very known...

From there, another hour by bus...

We get off at a small highlands station surrounded by the Japanese alps...

Edited by _Bnu, from #MangaProject on irc.mircx.com

THIS LAKE IS PRETTY INTEREST-ING, HUH?

LOOK! THERE ARE TWO ISLANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAKE!

THEY SEEM PRETTY UNINHAB-ITED.

DO PEOPLE LIVE THERE?

SORTA LIKE A BATH-HOUSE, HUH?

AHH... MAN ISLAND AND WOMAN ISLAND, HUH?

ALL RIGHT!

LONDON

WELL, I'LL ASK GRANDDAD. MAYBE THERE'S A BOAT LEAVING FROM SOMEWHERE...

WOOOW! WONDERFUL, I WANT TO GO SEE THEM!

HEY WAIT

WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YO-O-OU!

WELCO-O-OME IN!

Kurumi and Nanami got here a bit before us...

OH! COME ON IN, COME ON IN!

OHHH MY! WELCOME, WELCOME!

...I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUD-ING...

NOD

OHHH! WELCOME, WELCOME!

GRAND-PA, I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING!

GRAB!

NUDGE!

AS USUAL, YOU BRING BOTH OF THEM!

HM?

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CLEANLY SETTLE IT FOR YOU RIGHT HERE... WITH THIS 10-YEN COIN!

FLIP

WHAT'S HE GOING TO DECIDE ON?

LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL CAN'T MAKE UP YOUR MIND, YOU LECH!

RUB

RUB

PLEASE DON'T TRY TO DECIDE IT WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

I'LL TAKE HEADS!

TAILS!

SO, HEADS OR TAILS?

SEE? IT'S PRETTY, ISN'T IT?

EH?

I SEE... THAT'S TOO BAD. I WAS GOING TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING NICE ONCE YOU DECIDED...

RUSTLE RUSTLE

WHAT'S THIS?

WELL, YOU SEE...

AH, DAD ...?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT TAKASHI? HE DIDN'T COME?

.....

SMILE

HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL FROM HOW HE WAS BACK THEN, HOO HOO HOO!

AH, I SEE... THAT'S TOO BAD...

SEEMED LIKE HE COULDN'T TURN IT DOWN, OR SOME-THING...

SOME URGENT BUSINESS CAME UP, SO HE COULDN'T COME JOIN US.

EH?

WHEN YOU'VE DECIDED WHICH ONE YOU WANT, TRY GIVING IT TO THAT GIRL.

KEEP IT.

AH... WHAT'S THIS?

SFX: <BWAHAHAHAH!>

GRAND-PAAA!

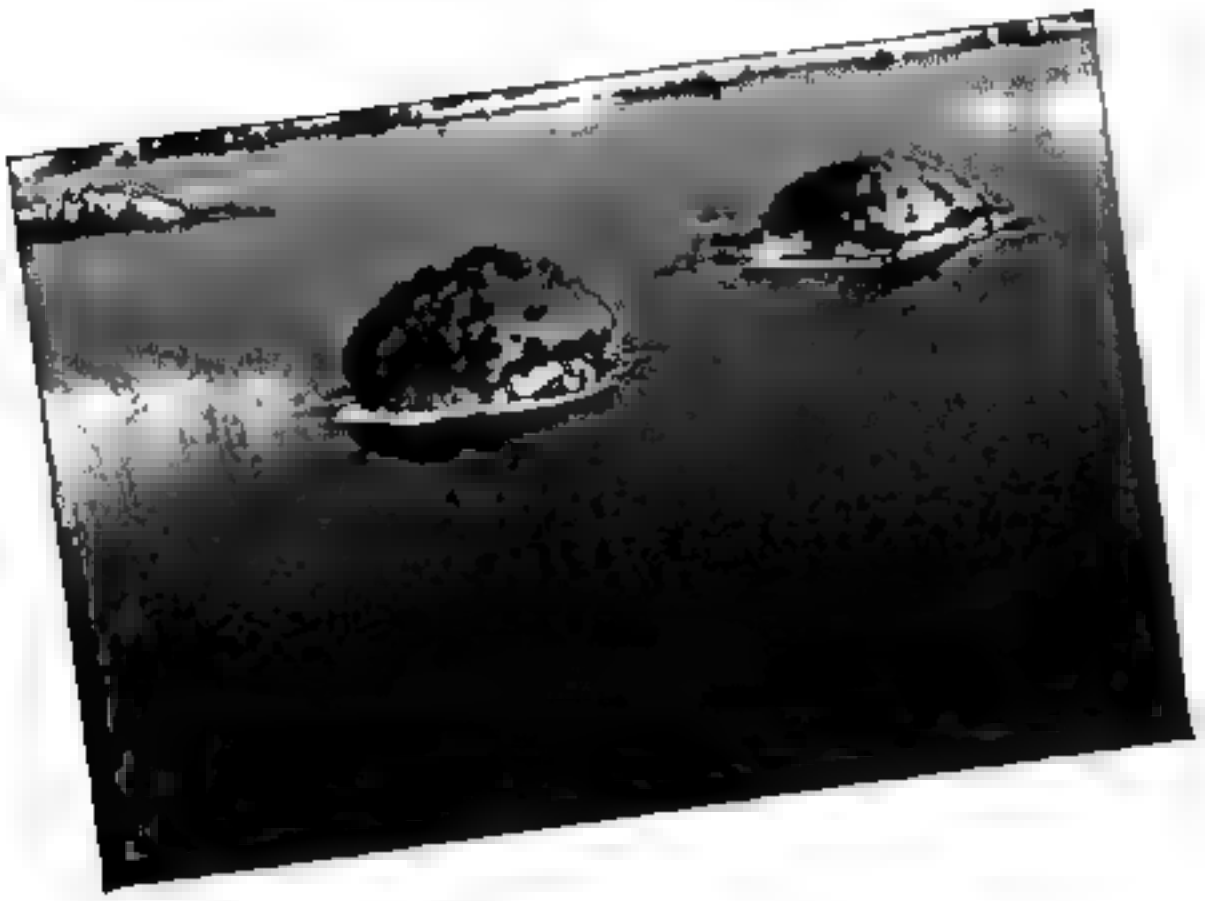
BLUSH

TELLING HER "I LOVE YOU".

WHISPER WHISPER

...JEEZ.

As usual, I can't beat grandpa....



IS THAT SOMETHING I CAN DO IN PUBLIC, HUH!?

WHY GO BY BOAT, WHEN YOU CAN JUST JUMP OVER THERE USING THE POWER?

EH!?

...I SEE. SO YOU WANT TO GO VISIT THOSE ISLANDS, HUH?

BY THE WAY, GRANDPA. I'D LIKE TO GO VISIT THOSE ISLANDS WITH EVERY-ONE... IS THERE A BOAT?

AHH... WELL, SURE YOU CAN GO BY BOAT, BUT...

WOULD YOU SHUT UP!?

UNEX-PECTED GOURD ISLANDS!

ACTU-ALLY... THOSE ISLANDS ARE...

...THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT OVER THERE!

YOU'RE WRONG! I'M SURE IT'S SAID THAT MINAMI KOUSETSU LIVES THERE!

THEN, THAT'S WHERE AMBASSADOR MAGMA'S HOUSE IS...

JUST... LISTEN TO ME! THOSE ISLANDS ARE...

WHAT!? THAT'S SO BORING!

...THE PLACE WHERE YOUR DAD PROPOSED TO YOUR MOM.

HUHH!? DAD!?

CHIRRRP CHIRRRP

BEFORE THEIR MARRIAGE, YOUR FATHER WAS STILL JUST AN AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER... HE COULDN'T EASILY COME UP HERE TO SEE YOUR MOM.

...TO MOM?

THE TWO OF THEM, WHO COULD ONLY MEET ONCE A YEAR ALWAYS HAD THEIR DATES ON THOSE ISLANDS...

NS 357

FOR A GUY LIKE THAT TO BE ABLE TO COME SEE MY DAUGHTER, YOUR MOM, HE COULD ONLY POP IN HERE AROUND THIS TIME ABOUT ONCE A YEAR.

JUST WHEN YOUR DAD WOULD COME AROUND THIS TIME OF THE SUMMER... THE MAN AND WOMAN ISLANDS WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN, ONCE EVERY YEAR.

IN THE SUMMER, WHEN THE WATER LEVEL IN THE LAKE DROPS, THE MAN AND WOMAN ISLANDS ARE CONNECTED.

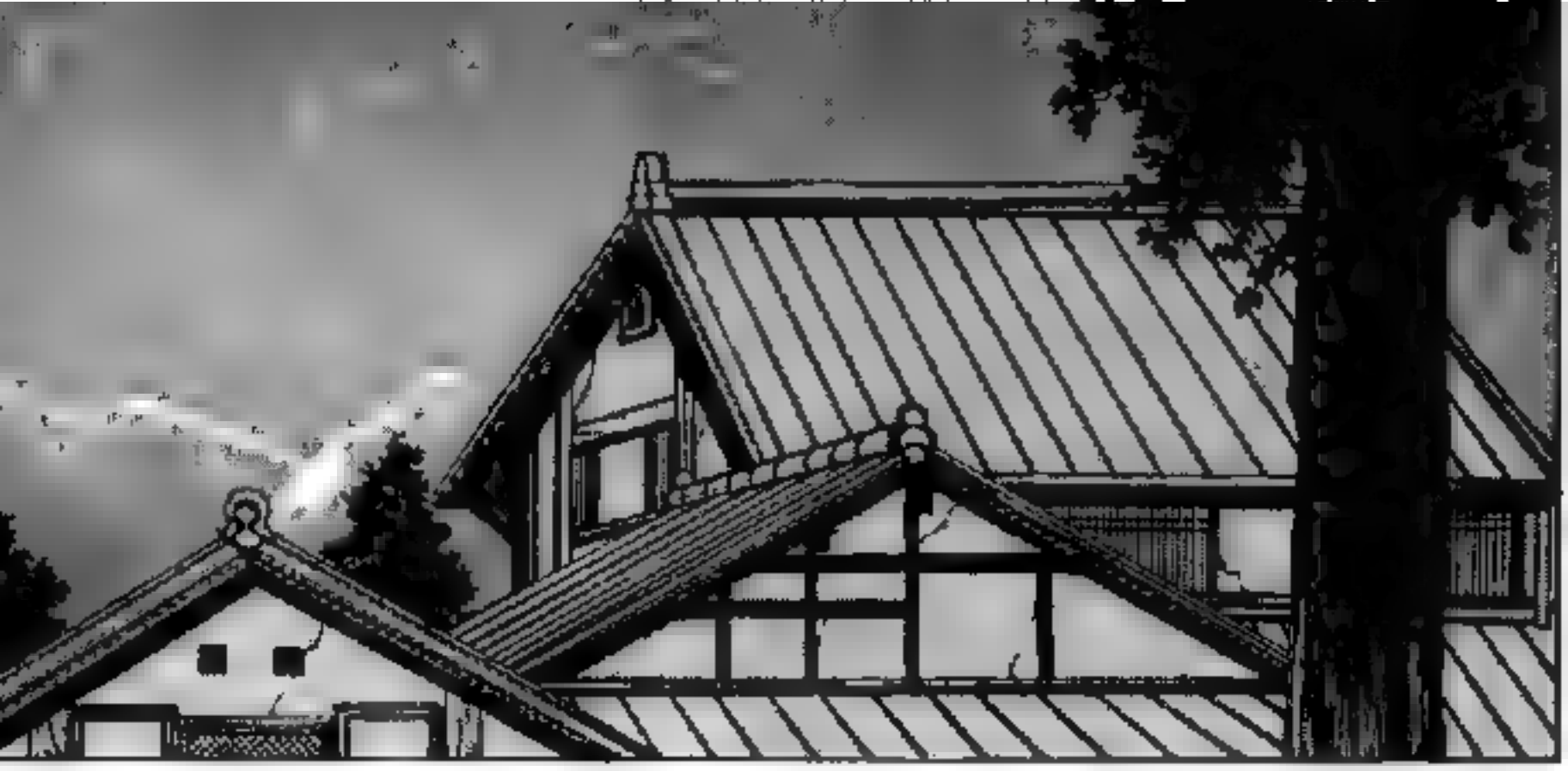
OHHH! JUST LIKE THE WEAVER GIRL AND THE HERDER OF THE TANABATA! HOW *ROMANTIC!*

IN THE SAME WAY, THOSE TWO ALSO MET ONCE A YEAR ON THOSE ISLANDS.

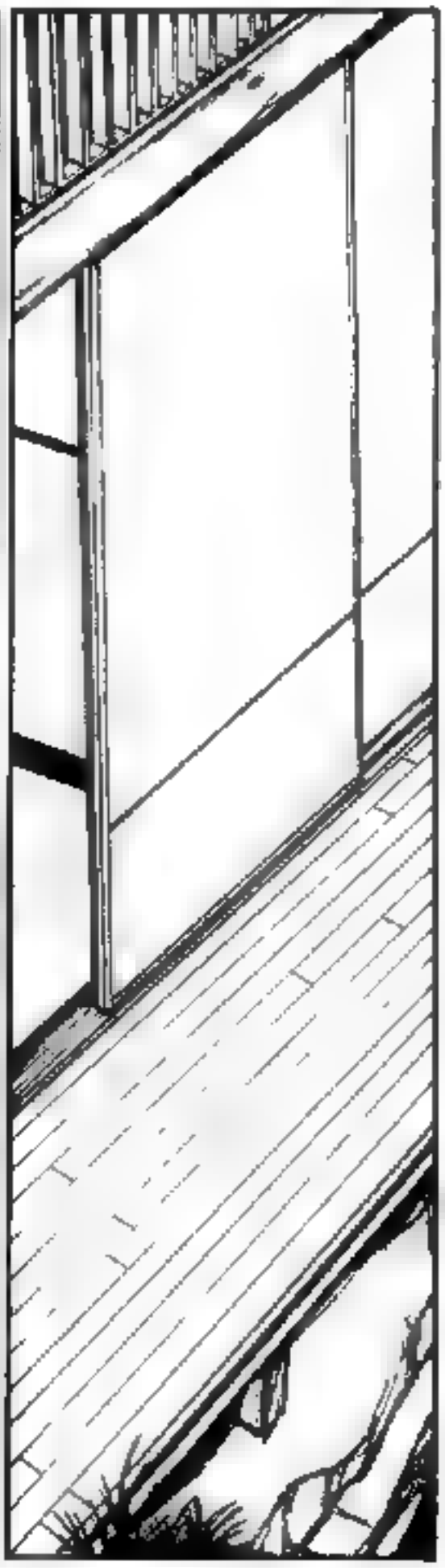
Mom, huh...

HMM ..

THEY WAN TO WOR NEWYOR



HEY WAIT
TO WORK



.. THE PLACE WHERE YOUR DAD PRO-POSED TO YOUR MOM.

SWIP!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE TOOK A BATH TOGETHER, MADOKA-SAN!

YOU'VE GROWN UP QUITE A LOT, HAVEN'T YOU, HIKARU?

Maybe... I'll go visit those islands now...

C'MOON, MADOKA-SAN! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

PLOOSH

SFX: <TH-THuMP!>

AA-A-AAH!

HM?

!

AH!

Oh- Oh, crap!

WHO'S THERE!?

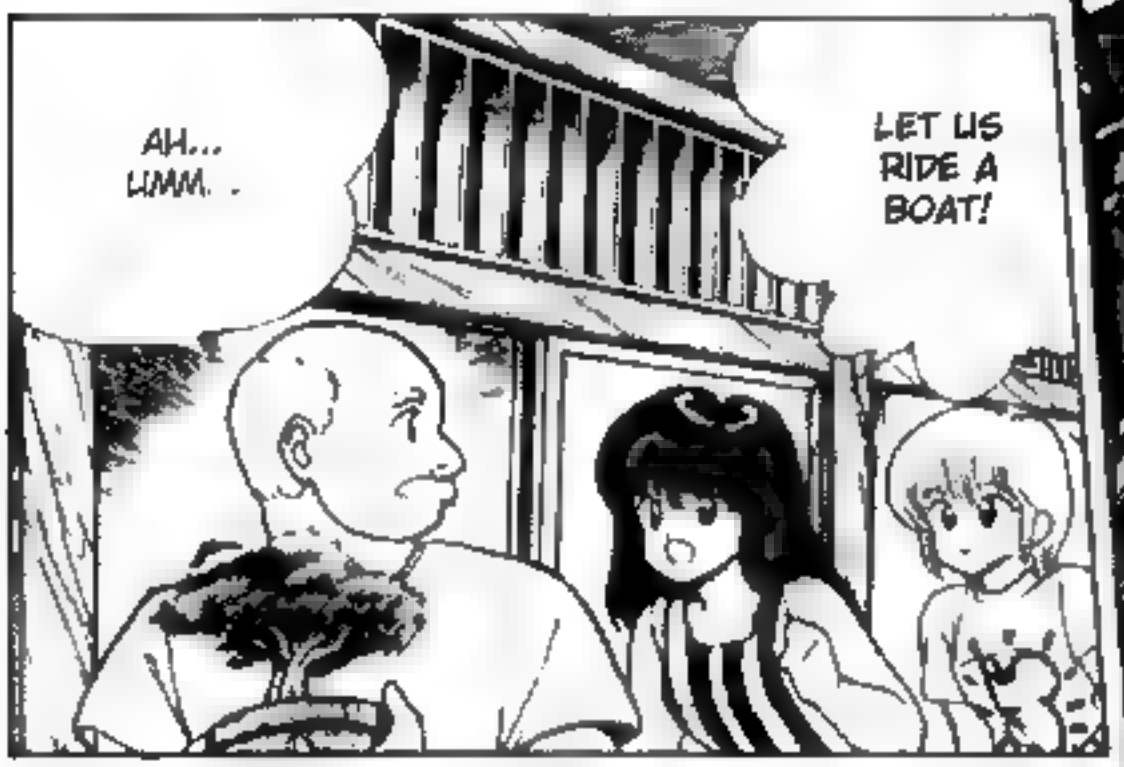
PHOOT

EEEEK! SENPAI, YOU PER-VERT!

In any case... I'll go visit the islands tomorrow...

MOM'S ISLANDS...

The Summer Pendant



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WHAT'S THE MATTER? SOMETHING ABOUT H.KARU-CHAN...?

...

YEAH!

WHISPER WHISPER

ARE YOU TAKING THAT H.KARU-CHAN GIRL ALONG TO THE ISLANDS, TOO?

YUP! OF COURSE!!

THAT GIRL IS KYOUSUKE'S... WHAT? HIS GIRLFRIEND?

..HMM

HUHHH? BUT AYUKAWA-SAN IS THE ONE THAT ONIICHAN...

...OOPS!

AYUKAWA... AHH, THAT ONEESAN... HUH?

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HUHHH? COME TO THINK OF IT... HE'S NOT AROUND...

WHERE HAS OUR KYOUSUKE GONE TO?

IF THAT KYOUSUKE DOESN'T MAKE THINGS CLEAR... WE CAN'T BE TAKING THAT GIRL TO THE ISLANDS.

MUTTER MUTTER

HEAVE-HO!

RATTLE!

GRR!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! IF I'M ALONE THEN THERE'S NO NEED TO USE A BOAT!

HM? WAIT A MINUTE.

MR. OWNER OF THE BOAT, SORRY FOR TAKING IT WITHOUT PERMISSION!

SPLASH

SLIDE SLIDE SLIDE

I CAN MAKE IT IN A SINGLE JUMP WITH THE POWER.

IF IT'S AS FAR AS THOSE ISLANDS...

KASUGA-KUN...!

THUMP

...UH-HUH.

TO THE ISLANDS... ARE YOU GOING?

CAN I COME ALONG TOO?

RILLU 15

OJIICHAN.

MUNCH MUNCH

MI-I-IN

MI-I-IN

MI-I-IN

YESTERDAY, THAT .. PENDANT YOU GAVE TO ONIICHAN...

OH, YOU WERE WATCHING?

THAT... MAYBE...

WAS MOTHER'S ...?

...THAT'S RIGHT

SMILE!

SQUEAK

EH?

YOU HAVE WONDERFUL PARENTS.

RILLU

15

ON TWO ISLANDS THAT ARE CONNECTED ONLY ONCE A YEAR,

ONCE A YEAR, THEY MEET AGAIN.

RILLU

AHH... THIS?

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED TO KASUGA-KUN'S MOTHER..

WHAT'S THAT PENDANT?

TO YOUR MOM, WHO HE COULD ONLY SEE ONCE A YEAR,

MI-I-IN
MI-I-IN

THAT PENDANT IS...

MI-I-IN
MI-I-IN

YOUR DAD GAVE SOME-THING SO THAT SHE WOULDN'T FEEL LONE-LY...

MI-I-IN
MI-I-IN
MI-I-IN

THAT PENDANT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR MOM'S ENGAGEMENT RING.

DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO BUY A RING, AND HE WAS PROBABLY EMBARRASSED...

IN THOSE DAYS, YOUR DAD, WHO WAS STILL A YOUNG AND POOR PHOTOGRAPHER...

SHE SAID IT WAS GIVEN TO HER BY YOUR DAD ON THOSE ISLANDS.. THAT GIRL. SHE WAS SO HAPPY.

...MOTHER.

SWISH!

SPLISH

SPLISH

...IT'S FOR YOU.

RIKU

15

IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!

THANK YOU...

SPLASH

ON THOSE ISLANDS...

IS A GUARDIAN WHO SINGLES OUT PEOPLE!

BUT OJIICHAN, WHY DID YOU KEEP HIKARU-CHAN FROM GOING TO THOSE ISLANDS?

TRIES TO GO TO THE ISLANDS WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE GUARDIAN..!

IF A STRANGER WHO LACKS THE POWER ..

HUH?

...AN ANCIENT LEGEND, ONE HANDED DOWN IN OUR CLAN.

SWORD OF LIGHT!?

THEN THE GUARDIAN'S SWORD OF LIGHT WILL STRIKE THAT PERSON, DECISIVELY!!

...HOW SCARY!

HM... WAIT A SEC!

RUMMBLE

THERE WAS SOMETHING. . I HAD BEEN WARNED BY OJIICHAN WHEN CROSSING OVER TO THESE ISLANDS...

HMM... WHAT WAS IT?

HMM.

RUMBLE

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
AH!
15

BANG

IT'S THE GUARDIAN'S SWORD OF LIGHT!!

NO, THAT'S NOT IT! THAT'S NO ORDINARY LIGHTNING!

HUH!?

HUH ...!?

KYA! LIGHTNING!

THEY WERE KILLED !!

SOME STRANGERS TRIED TO CROSS OVER TO THOSE ISLANDS!!

TITLE. <ESCAPE, ESCAPE!>

SFX <KABOOM>

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STILL, THAT WAS NO ORDINARY LIGHTNING.

I CAN'T POSSIBLY SAY IT WAS DUE TO THE POWER..

EVERY NOW AND THEN, YOU DO SOME AMAZING THINGS THAT SEEM TO MAKE NO SENSE, KASUGA-KUN

HA HA.

SFX. <RUMBLE>

SFX. <RUMMMBLE>

LOOK OUT!

ゴロ

ゴロ

SFX: <FLASH!>

KYAAAA!!

SFX: <WHA-A-AM>

SFX: <ZAK ZAK>

H- HEY! THIS LIGHTNING IS A LITTLE STRANGE!!

WAH!!

SFX <WHAM>

AH, THAT'S IT ..!! I'VE JUST REMEMBERED OJICHAN'S WORDS!!

THERE'S A GUARDIAN ON THESE ISLANDS, AND IF A STRANGER WHO LACKS THE POWER TRIES TO COME TO THESE ISLANDS .

THEN THE GUARDIAN'S SWORD OF LIGHT WILL STRIKE HIM.

THAT'S NO LIGHTNING!!

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WHAT THE HELL IS ON THESE ISLANDS!?

BUT... WHY... SHOULDN'T ANYONE BE ABLE TO COME TO THESE ISLANDS!?

SFX: (CRACKLE)

THERE'S NO POSSIBLE WAY I COULD TELL AYUKAWA ABOUT AN ESPER FAMILY LEGEND LIKE THIS .

HEY, YOU KNOW, IT'S LIKE THAT LIGHTNING IS STRIKING DOWN, AIMED AT ME...

AH... THIS.

ARE YOU CARRYING SOMETHING METALLIC!?

BUT THIS IS SOMETHING SPECIAL THAT YOU...!!

HURRY AND TAKE THAT OFF!

SFX <BANG>

IT'S A WELL!

OVER HERE, OVER HERE.

INSIDE!

IT'S AN EMPTY WELL!!

SFX: <WHAM>

SFX: <BANG>

TUMBLE

...WE'RE SAVED.

SFX: <CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER>

DROP! DROP!

SFX <SPLASHHH>

SFX. <DROP! DROP!>

KASUGA-KUN, WAIT A MINUTE.

OO-WAHHH! IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'LL BE DRENCHED!!

A CAVE OPENING.

LOOK AT THIS!

I SEE A LIGHT!

AT THE OTHER END...

AND IF WE COME OUT FROM HERE RIGHT NOW, THE LIGHTNING WILL TARGET US AGAIN.

SHALL WE GO AND LOOK? IF WE STAY HERE LIKE THIS, WE'LL GET DRENCHED...

IT'S CONNECTED TO THE OUTSIDE.

CAREFUL!

PLOP

THERE'S A LOT OF SPACE IN HERE.

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS CAVE WAS DUG BY PEOPLE.

MAYBE COAL OR SOMETHING WAS FOUND HERE... OR A GOLD MINE!?

STEP!

MAYBE. . THE GUARDIAN OF THOSE ISLANDS LIVES HERE?

OJ ICHAN DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT THIS CAVE, BUT

STEP!

STEP! STEP!

SPOOKY, HUH. . IT'S LIKE IT GOES TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH.

!?

STEP

STEP

STEP

STEP

STEP

F- FOOT-STEPS!?

STEP

IT'S GETTING CLOSER.

GULP

STEP

STEP

STEP

STEP

SFX: <STEP STEP STEP STEP>

NO ONE'S AROUND

THE FOOTSTEPS CAME THAT CLOSE!

WHERE THE HELL IS IT COMING FROM?

SFX <GRAB>

KYAAAAA!!

HUH!?

WOOSH

SLIP

?

SFX. <SWISH>

AYUKAWA!

AYUKAWA!

FLOP

KYAAAAAA!
AYUKAWA-A-A-A!!

A Prayer to a Stone Statue...

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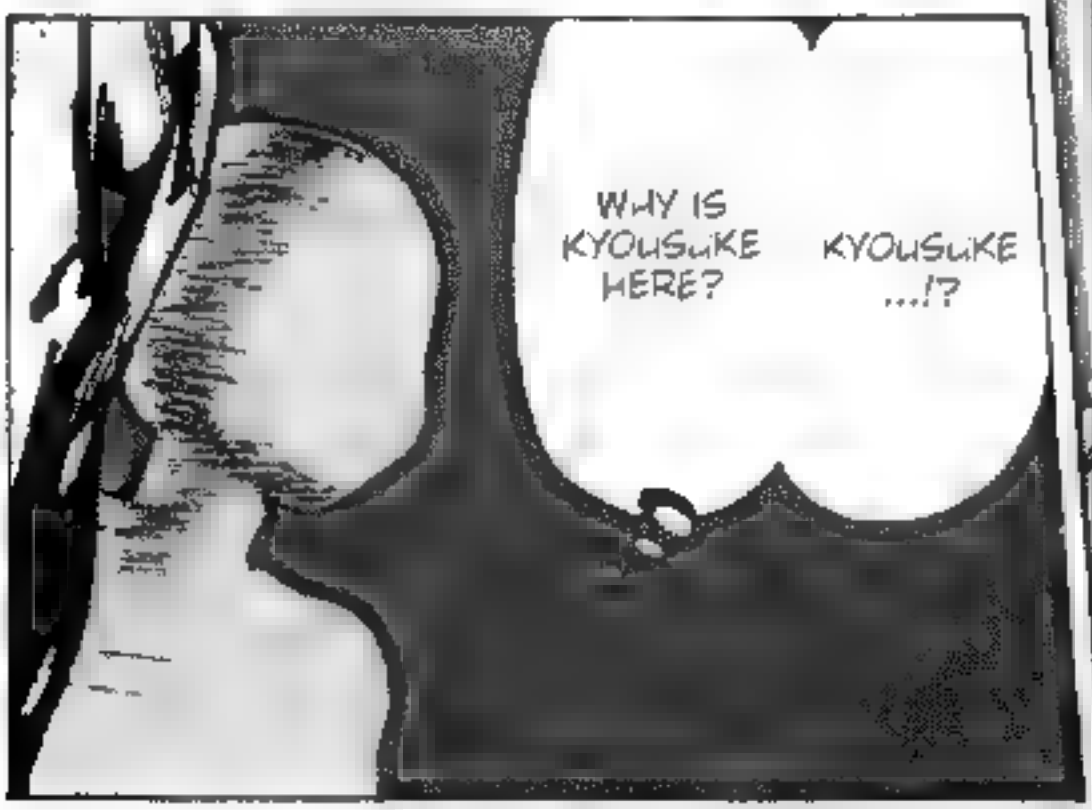
SFX: <STEP! STEP!?



TH-THIS IS AWFUL!! I HAVE TO SAVE HER!!

!!

A M-
MONSTER
!!

OH... OHH...
IT'S NOT
ALIVE.

TH- THIS
IS... A
STATLE!?

THIS IS THE ISLAND'S... GUARD-IAN?

MAYBE ...

HOW HUMUNGOUS... WHY IS SOMETHING LIKE THIS HERE?

AYUKAWA, ARE YOU OKAY!?

.....

AH! OH NO! AYUKAWA!!

15

OH... HER ANKLES WERE CAUGHT ON THESE TREE ROOTS AND SHE FELL...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
BUT .. IF WE JUST GO OUT ON THE SURFACE LIKE THIS. AYUKAWA WILL BE ATTACKED BY LIGHTNING AGAIN.
15

SWISH!

YOU... IF YOU'RE THE GUARDIAN OF THESE ISLANDS, I HAVE A REQUEST.

I WANT YOU TO STOP AIMING ANY MORE LIGHTNING AT THIS GIRL...

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

WELL, I CAN TELL THAT TO A STONE STATUE LIKE THIS, BUT THERE'S NO WAY IT'LL HEAR ME, IS THERE...

BECAUSE THAT GIRL IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE ESPER CLAN...

TH- THE STATUE... SPOKE...

THAT IS WHY I AM HERE, TO GUARD THE ISLANDS.

I WILL NOT ALLOW STRANGERS TO COME NEAR THE ISLANDS.

HOWEVER, IF YOU, AN ESPER CLAN MEMBER, INTEND TO BRING HER INTO THE CLAN...

THEN I WILL NOT TARGET THAT GIRL ANY MORE!!

I SEE. SO THAT'S WHY DAD, WHO'S AN OUTSIDER, CAN VISIT AND LEAVE THESE ISLANDS FREELY, AND HASN'T BEEN TARGETTED BY LIGHTNING, EITHER...

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YOU'RE A MEDDLING GUARDIAN, AREN'T YOU?

JUST LIKE WITH DAD'S AND MOM'S RELATIONSHIP... I STAND BEFORE THE GUARDIAN FOR PERMISSION TO LOVE...

EH!?

WALISH PLOP

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, THEN I'LL RETURN WHEN I'VE DECIDED.

WHERE'S THE EXIT?

LIGHTLY!

W- WAIT!! WHY ARE YOU SO INDECISIVE!? ONE MOMENT ...!!

FIRST OF ALL, EVEN IF I DECIDE... I HAVE AYUKAWA'S SITUATION TO CONSIDER, TOO.

RIGHT?

DON'T HIDE IN SUCH A PLACE, GRANDMA.

THAT'S THE WAY IT IS... SO NO MORE PLAYING WEIRD PRANKS USING THE POWER.

SURE... THAT'S TRUE.

HUH!?

WOBBLE

I'D KNOW YOUR VOICE IF I HEARD IT.

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I SEE THE TRUE CHARACTER OF GOD...

IT'S THE FARTHEST CAVE... ON THE LEFT.

WE..L, GRANDMA. WHERE'S THE EXIT!?

IT'S JUST LIKE... A MAZE.

SPLASH

GRANDMA.

WHERE THE HECK DOES THIS CONNECT TO?

BUT... WHY IN THE WORLD WAS THIS CAVE DUG?

SMILE!

WHY...? WELL...

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT IS, KYOUSUKE?

WHY DO WE HAVE TO PROTECT THESE ISLANDS ...?

SPLASH!

WHAT IN THE WORLD... ARE WE?

WHY ARE THOSE WHO HAVE SOMETHING CALLED THE POWER DIFFERENT FROM PEOPLE?

BELOW THE GROUND HERE, THE ENTIRE SECRET OF OUR ESPER CLAN IS CONCEALED.

AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT LAKE LIES A VILLAGE WHICH, A LONG TIME AGO, WAS SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS, AND AT THE HEART OF THAT VILLAGE ARE TWO MOUNTAINS...

IT'S SAID THAT THERE LAY THE VILLAGE OF OUR ESPER CLAN'S ANCESTORS...

THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE LIVED IN PEACE, BUT THE SECRET OF THE VILLAGE SEEMED TO BE REPEATEDLY THREATENED BY OUTSIDE INTRUDERS.

THE PEOPLE FEARED THAT THE POWER WOULD BE USED BY THE AUTHORITIES BACK THEN (TODAY, IT WOULD BE USED BY THE MILITARY). BY THEIR OWN HAND, THEY SUBMERGED THE VILLAGE BENEATH THE LAKE...

BUT... SO THAT THAT VILLAGE WOULDN'T BE DISCOVERED BY INTRUDERS AGAIN, THE DESCENDANTS OF THE VILLAGERS MADE A RULE THAT A GUARDIAN MUST PROTECT THE ISLANDS.

ON THOSE ISLANDS ARE TUNNELS THAT LEAD TO THE VILLAGE THAT SLEEPS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE.

SAY... GRAMPS.

HM?

AH!! THEN THAT MEANS THE GUARDIAN IS REAL...!?

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UMM...

HUH!?

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, BUT THIS IS A DEAD END...

THIS SENILE OLD GRANDMA!

HMM... THEN I WONDER WHAT WE HAVE TO DO TO GET OUT OF THIS CAVE?

OH, MY! OOPS! I MADE A MISTAKE WITH THE EXIT!

.....

The Summer Finale!

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER IT...
WEREN'T YOU BROUGHT HERE BY YOUR DAD ONCE WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, KYOUSUKE?

MI-I-IN
MI-I-IN

MI-I-IN
MI-I-IN

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT...

...MOTHER!

THE TIME'S SURE FLOWN...

MY MOM... RIGHT AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO MANAMI AND KURUMI...

RIKU 15

IT'S BEEN... 15 YEARS ALREADY.

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

SCAN

SCAN

AYUKAWA... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I'LL JUST BE A SEC.

HEADSTONE: <KASUGA AKEMI>

DAD? HE WAS HERE?

PROBABLY TAKASHI-SAN.

OH. WHAT ARE THESE FLOWERS?

HEADSTONE: <KASUGA AKEMI>

IT SEEMS HE COMES OUT HERE EVERY YEAR ABOUT THIS TIME TO SEE HER - IN PART FOR US - WITHOUT FAIL.

DOES SHE... KNOW ABOUT OUR POWER?

BUT, KYOUSUKE. THE FACT THAT YOU BROUGHT THAT GIRL TO THIS ISLAND... THAT GIRL...

SO... WHY DON'T YOU TELL HER? YOU LIKE HER, DON'T YOU?

I DON'T THINK SHE KNOWS.

MI-
I-IN

MI-
I-IN

I WOULDN'T EVER BE ABLE TO SEE HER AGAIN...

IF... SHE KNEW ABOUT THE POWER...

THAT'S WHY... UP UNTIL NOW, I COULDN'T TALK ABOUT THE POWER.

BUT... YOUR DAD DIDN'T TREAT OUR POWER AS MONSTROUS.

YOUR MOTHER REVEALED THE POWER TO YOUR DAD ON THIS ISLAND, TOO!!

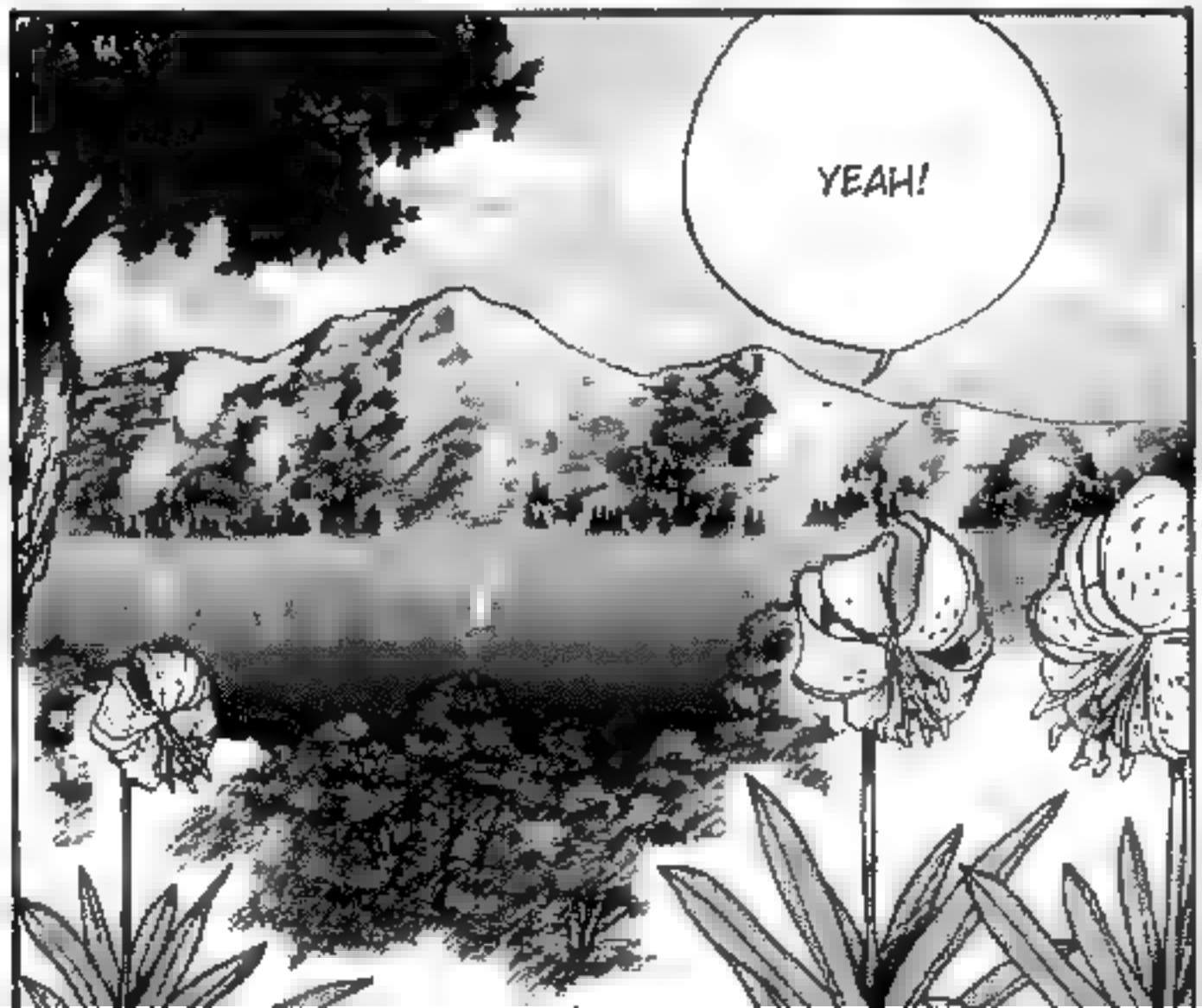
HEADSTONE: <KASUGA AKEMI>

SINCE THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE RUDE TO COME EMPTY-HANDED!

SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING!

BUT... THIS PENDANT PROTECTED US.

HEY... YOU DIDN'T GET RID OF THAT PENDANT?


YEAH!

SFX: <MI-I-IN> <MI-I-IN>

OF COURSE!

SHE'S A NICE GIRL!

EH!?

FWISHHH!

CRACKLE
POP

OH! A
SHOOTING
STAR!

RILLU
15

AH, IT'S TRUE!

HUH?

HEY!

HA HA HA! NO WAY-Y-Y!

NAHHH, BUT I DUNNO. MAYBE IT'S A UFO.

IN THE EXISTENCE OF UFOS AND ESP...

HUH?

HEY... DO YOU BELIEVE, AYUKAWA?

WELL ...

IF... I WERE AN ALIEN... OR AN ESPER... WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

HUH? WHY THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN...

IF YOU DID...

IF... I HAD ESP POWERS ...

WELL...

I'D HAVE YOU TAKE ME TO THE MOON!

AT BEST, INSTEAD OF BY TAXI, I COULD TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE THAT'S A LITTLE TOO FAR TO WALK...

I- I CAN'T GO THAT FAR!

OR PREDICT NEXT MONTH'S LOTTERY, OR...

TEE!

BUT... WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE A SUPERMAN...

HAHA HAHA

YOU AREN'T A PERFECT SUPERMAN, ARE YOU!?

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YOU'RE THE SAME KASUGA-KUN... AND EITHER ONE IS FINE.

HOW IN THE WORLD WILL EVERYONE REACT?

IF... I TALK ABOUT THE POWER...

BUT... WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?

AHH... NOTHING ...

WILL THEY BE SURPRISED? SURE, THEY'LL PROBABLY BE SURPRISED!

MAYBE... THEY WON'T SPEAK TO ME.

AND THEN... I'D HAVE TO TRANSFER AGAIN. NO, BUT MAYBE AT THE VERY LEAST...

?

STARE

SOMEHOW... I HAVE THE FEELING THAT AYUKAWA WOULD SAY, WITH AN UNAFFECTED EXPRESSION...

"BUT... WHAT DOES THAT MATTER!?"

HM? IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?

帰れないふたり

前の巻

TITLE: <THE TWO WHO COULDN'T GO BACK>

I'D LIKE TO RESERVE AN AIRLINE TICKET, PLEASE!

SIGN: <JAPAN TOURIST>

IT'S AYUKAWA MADOKA ...

A ROUND-TRIP TO HOKKAIDO.

YES... IT'S FOR MY FATHER.

SIGN: <10-DAY OKINAWA TOUR>

HUH. AYUKAWA-SAN..!

TO LOS ANGELES ON THE 20TH. YES.. ONE.

MADO
...

HM...? ONE WAY TICKET!?

YES... IT'S FOR MYSELF

NO... A ONE-WAY TICKET WILL BE FINE.

HELLO
...

OH!

AGAIN... TO SEE YOUR PARENTS ...?

ARE YOU TAKING A TRIP TO AMERICA?

IS IT A LONG TRIP THIS TIME!?

BUT, IT'S JUST A ONE-WAY TICKET...

C'MON-N-N! YOU'RE KIDDING AGAIN.

YEAH... I MIGHT NOT COME BACK AT ALL.

SAY... MANAMI-CHAN...

I DON'T WANT YOU TO TELL ANYONE YET...

ABOUT ME GOING TO AMERICA...

HUH?

I WONDER IF KASUGA-KUN SAT IN ON THE SEMINARS AS HE SHOULD HAVE?

SCHOOL BEGINS TO-MORROW!

AH, WELL... ONIICHAN, AS USUAL ...

AH HA HA! I HAVE NO IDEA.

I WONDER IF KASUGA-KUN WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO COLLEGE!?

PLEASE!

S- SURE!

SUMMER BREAK ENDED, AND AN INCIDENT OCCURRED AT SCHOOL.

VARIOUS RUMORS FLEW ABOUT AMONG THE STUDENTS...

A TEACHERS' MEETING WAS HURRIEDLY HELD IN THE FACULTY ROOM...

Faculty Room

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT THINGS WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS...

BUT...

IT WAS NOW THE SOLE TOPIC OF CONVER-SATION AT SCHOOL.

THE STORY IS THAT MANY SHOW-BIZ PRODUCTION PEOPLE WANT TO MAKE AYUKAWA A STAR, AND THEY'RE TURNING UP AT SCHOOL HERE!

HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD!?

BUT... WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT A GIRL LIKE AYUKAWA?

YOU MEAN THE AUDITION THAT NEVER GOT AIRED ON TV?

HOW AWESOME!

AT ANY RATE, IT SEEMS THEY HAVE THEIR EYE ON AYUKAWA BECAUSE OF THAT AUDITION BACK THEN!

BUT... SHE'S A DELINQUENT!

THEN SHE MEETS ALL THE REQUIRE-MENTS.

SHE CERTAINLY LOOKS GOOD, AND HER SINGING... WELL . IT CERTAINLY SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS THE BEST ONE AT THAT AUDITION, BUT...

EH!?

IN WHAT WAY?

BUT IT WAS DIS-COVERED THAT SHE ACTUALLY APPEARED AT THE AUDITION WITHOUT SCHOOL PERMISSION ...

AND EVEN THAT SHE WAS WORKING PART-TIME AT ABCB, SO NOW SHE'S SUS-PENDED FROM SCHOOL.

SURE... BECAUSE OF THAT, AYUKAWA'S NOW SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL...

* NOTE <LITERALLY, KOMATSU SAYS " THE STAKE THAT EMERGES IS STRUCK ">

SPROING

I DON'T THINK AYUKAWA IS A DE-LINQUENT!

BUT AYUKAWA WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO ENTERED THE CONTEST!

WELL... THEY SAY THE NAIL THAT STICKS OUT IS HAMMERED.*

AH, TELL THE TEACHER I'M GOING HOME EARLY.

WELL . .

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, KASUGA!?

SHE SEEMED FORBIDDING AND, IN REALITY, SEEMED TO FIGHT A LOT, TOO, BUT...

IT'S TRUE SHE WAS PRETTY REBELLIOUS AND ALWAYS SORT OF UPTIGHT LIKE THIS DURING JUNIOR HIGH.

CAN'T IMAGINE THAT AYUKAWA IS A DELINQUENT ...

BUT... LATELY, I...

BUT EVER SINCE KASUGA TRANSFERRED HERE, AYUKAWA... HAS SOMEHOW CHANGED.

PERHAPS IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION ...

EVEN SO, WHY IS IT THAT ONLY AYUKAWA GOT SUSPENDED?

THINK ABOUT IT A BIT. **WE** TOOK PART IN THAT CONTEST, TOO!

HOW COME?

AYUKAWA... IS ACTUALLY A BETTER PERSON.

?

ALL RIGHT...! HATTA, COME!

IF IT WAS JUST YOU AND ME...WE'D HAVE BLABBED.

SAYING, OUT OF CONCERN FOR OUR-SELVES, THAT IT WASN'T ONLY US WHO APPEARED

IT'S NOT FAIR!

MADOKA-SAN WAS THE ONLY ONE FORCED TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY AND GOT SUSPENDED!

SHOULD WE ALLOW THIS TO GO ON, EVERYONE!?

ALL RIGHT! THEN, IT'S SETTLED!

YEAH... WE SHOULD ALSO OPENLY DECLARE OUR NAMES.

BUT, SINCE I WAS AWARE OF THAT, I HAD A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR HAVING EMPLOYED HER, KOUCHOU-SENSEI!

CERTAINLY, THERE IS NO EXCUSE AT ALL FOR HER BREAKING THE SCHOOL REGULATION PROHIBITING PART-TIME JOBS...

Principal's Office

PLEASE, REMOVE HER SUSPENSION IMMEDIATELY!!

RESPONSIBILITY... HOW ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE IT?

.....

SO THAT YOUR SCHOOL ISN'T TROUBLED ...

SOMETHING LIKE THIS WILL NEVER EVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

CLOSED AS OF TODAY!

ABCB IS...

RIFFLE

WITH THIS, I'VE COME TO A DECISION...

I'M... WEAK-WILLED, AFTER ALL.

AND SO... I WON'T NEED THIS PICTURE ANY MORE...

SWISH

WHAT WAS I EXPECTING...?

BUT... EVEN IF GOD WERE TO RESOLVE THIS... EVEN SO, THE SIMPLE MATH IS...

WHEN I WAKE UP ONE MORNING...

THAT SOMEDAY, SOMETHING WOULD SURELY CHANGE...

1 + 1 DOESN'T EQUAL 3!

I WISH...
I HADN'T
BEEN BORN...
A WOMAN...

...HUH? YOU'RE ...!?

HELLO ...?

RRR...

NO ONE'S HOME.

DING DONG

DING DONG

AYUKAWA MADOKA.. I WONDER WHERE SHE'S GONE!?

DO YOU KNOW?

HEY, YOU! ARE YOU HER CLASS-MATE OR SOMETHING?

* NOTE <"TALENT," AS IN "A PERSON OF TALENT">

AH, I'M A LITTLE LATE, BUT WE'RE FROM FUJISAN MUSIC...

HEY, HEY! WE WERE HERE FIRST!

AH, I'M FROM SUN ENTER-TAINMENT.

WAIT A MINUTE!

AYUKAWA'S SUSPENDED NOW BECAUSE OF YOU PEOPLE!

GET OUT OF HERE!!

AYUKAWA WILL NEVER BE A SINGER OR A TALENT!!*

.....

ME...!? A SINGER?

THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD.

CAFE

DID YOUR MANAGER ASK YOU TO..? OR...

I WAS WONDERING WHAT HAYAKAWA MITSURU, THE PUBLIC FIGURE, WANTED WITH ME...

I WAS SO SURE I'D BE TURNED DOWN... SO I SPOKE FAST!!

REALLY !?

HEY, HEY.

MAYBE YOUR PLAYBOY BLOOD HAS BEGUN TO CHURN AGAIN?

I GUESS... I'M LIKE SALIERI IN THE MOVIE "AMADEUS".

I PROMISED SHIORI THAT I'D GIVE UP BEING A PLAYBOY ALREADY.

WHAT'S MORE, I'M NOT HERE BECAUSE SOMEONE ASKED ME TO.

OH, SALIERI WAS A MORE INDUSTRIOUS AND SERIOUS MUSICIAN.

ANYWAY, THIS IS ALL I WANTED TO SAY, MS. MOZART

RUSTLE

DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME ...

I'M TALKING ABOUT MUSICAL TALENTS.

IT'S FOOLISH OF ME TO ENCOURAGE A FUTURE RIVAL...

BUT EVERYONE IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY HAS BEEN SAYING...

...THAT THEY WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE ONCE MORE!

THANK YOU. I'LL TELL MY MANAGER.

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

I'LL BE WAITING PATIENTLY FOR YOUR REPLY.

BUT... BEFORE THAT, THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST DO...

SFX: <VROOM>

CLACK

PLEASE LOOK AT THAT.

WAIT. NOW CALM DOWN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR, MASTER.

Principal's Office

THAT'S RIGHT! PLEASE SUSPEND ALL OF US!!

THAT'S WHY-Y-Y! WE ALSO TOOK PART IN THAT CONTEST! SO PLEASE DON'T SUSPEND AYUKAWA BY HERSELF!!

BUT NO ONE DECIDED ON ANY SUSPENSION!

IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT THE TOPIC OF STUDENTS TAKING PART IN THE CONTEST WITHOUT PERMISSION WAS BROUGHT UP AT A TEACHERS' MEETING...

WHY CAN'T STUDENTS FREELY ENJOY MUSIC!?

THAT'S RIGHT! ALTHOUGH I'M A TEACHER, I WATCHED THAT CONTEST, TOO!

NOW, NOW, EVEN TOBA-SENSEI ..

HUH....!?!

A STUDENT DECIDING SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON HER OWN PUTS US IN A JAM. WE WANT HER IN SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THAT IS SOMETHING WE'RE DISCUSSING NOW.

"I DON'T WANT TO BE A NUISANCE TO THE SCHOOL, SO PLEASE LET ME BE CONFINED TO MY HOME FOR NOW."

AYUKAWA MADOKA-KUN PHONED THE SCHOOL HERSELF AND SAID THIS!

AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY DATA JUST NOW THAT SAYS GRADES GET WORSE BECAUSE OF MUSIC OR WORKING PART-TIME.

I CAN'T VERY WELL PUT OUR SCHOOL TO SHAME LIKE THAT, BY SUSPENDING THIS MANY STUDENTS AT ONCE...

MADOKA-SAN... HERSELF ...!?

ESPECIALLY... IN AYUKAWA-KUN'S CASE ON THE CONTRARY, AND ALL THE MORE STRANGELY, HER MARKS SUDDENLY JUMPED TO THE TOP OF HER CLASS AFTER THE SPRING OF HER 3RD YEAR IN JUNIOR HIGH.

TO AMERICA...?

"YEAH... I MIGHT NOT COME BACK AT ALL."

MADOKA-SAN... CONFINING HERSELF TO HER HOME... WHAT COULD SHE BE THINKING?

.....

I HAVE A BAD FEELING...

IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... SOMEHOW...

O- OHH, HELLO!

OH! HEY-Y-Y, SAYURI-CHAN!!

.....

ABC MURDERS

WHO THE HELL WAS IT-T-T!? WHO'S THE ONE TOSSING AROUND THE FALSE RUMOR THAT AYUKAWA WAS SUS-PENDED!?

EEP!

WideBan version - WideBan version - WideBan version

I BET IT'S BECAUSE SHE WAS FLIRTING AROUND WITH THAT KASUGA GUY. SERVES THAT GIRL RIGHT!

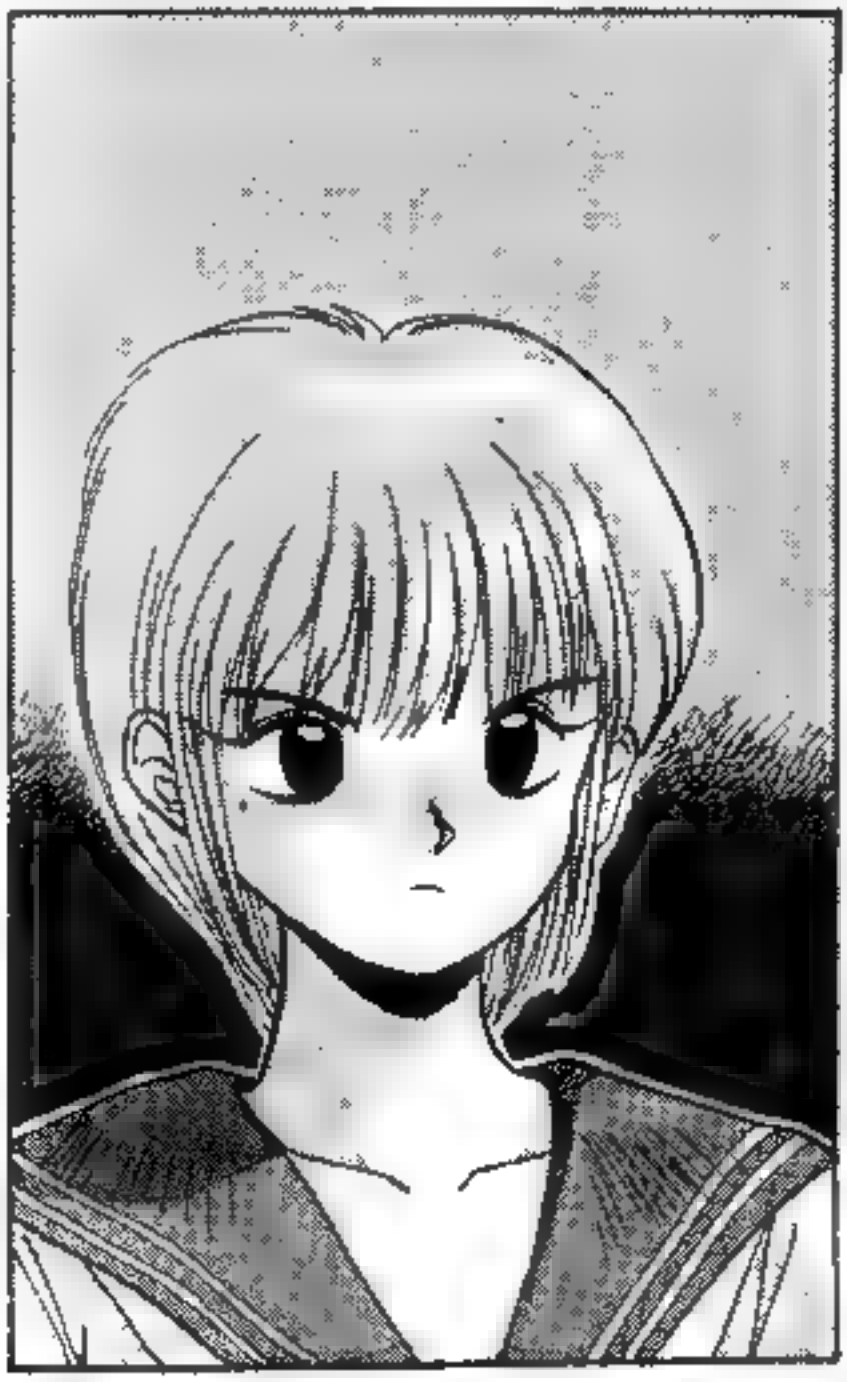
HMMPH! A FALSE RUMOR ...?

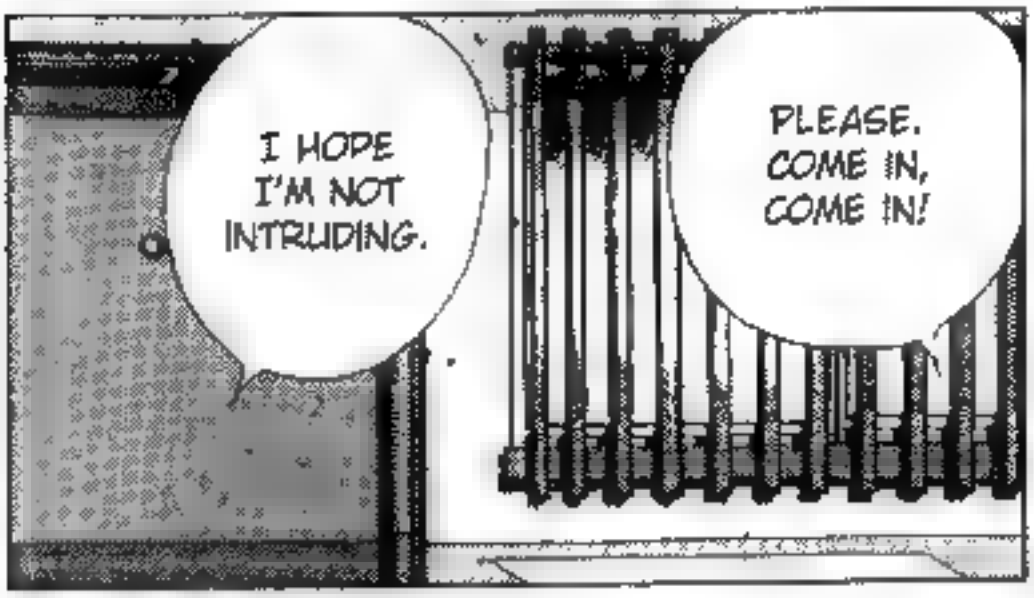
Yeah, so I'm the guilty one!

HEY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THAT GIRL?"

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MADOKA-SAN?
THAT'S RIGHT! OH, DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP?
RELA-TIONSHIP...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

WideBan version - WideBan version - WideBan version





I BET IT'S BECAUSE SHE WAS FLIRTING AROUND WITH THAT KASUGA GUY. SERVES THAT GIRL RIGHT!

HMMPH! A FALSE RUMOR ...?

Yeah so I'm the guilty one!

I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING.

PLEASE. COME IN, COME IN!

Kasuga

!!

AHHHH. MY SIDES ARE ALL SORE!

BUT. BUT-T-T!

YOUR FACE BACK THEN, HIKARU-CHAN!!

HEE HEE

SFX: <AH! HA HA HA HA!> <HA HA HA!>

SHE DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE REAL GIRLFRIEND WAS RIGHT THERE BEFORE HER EYES!

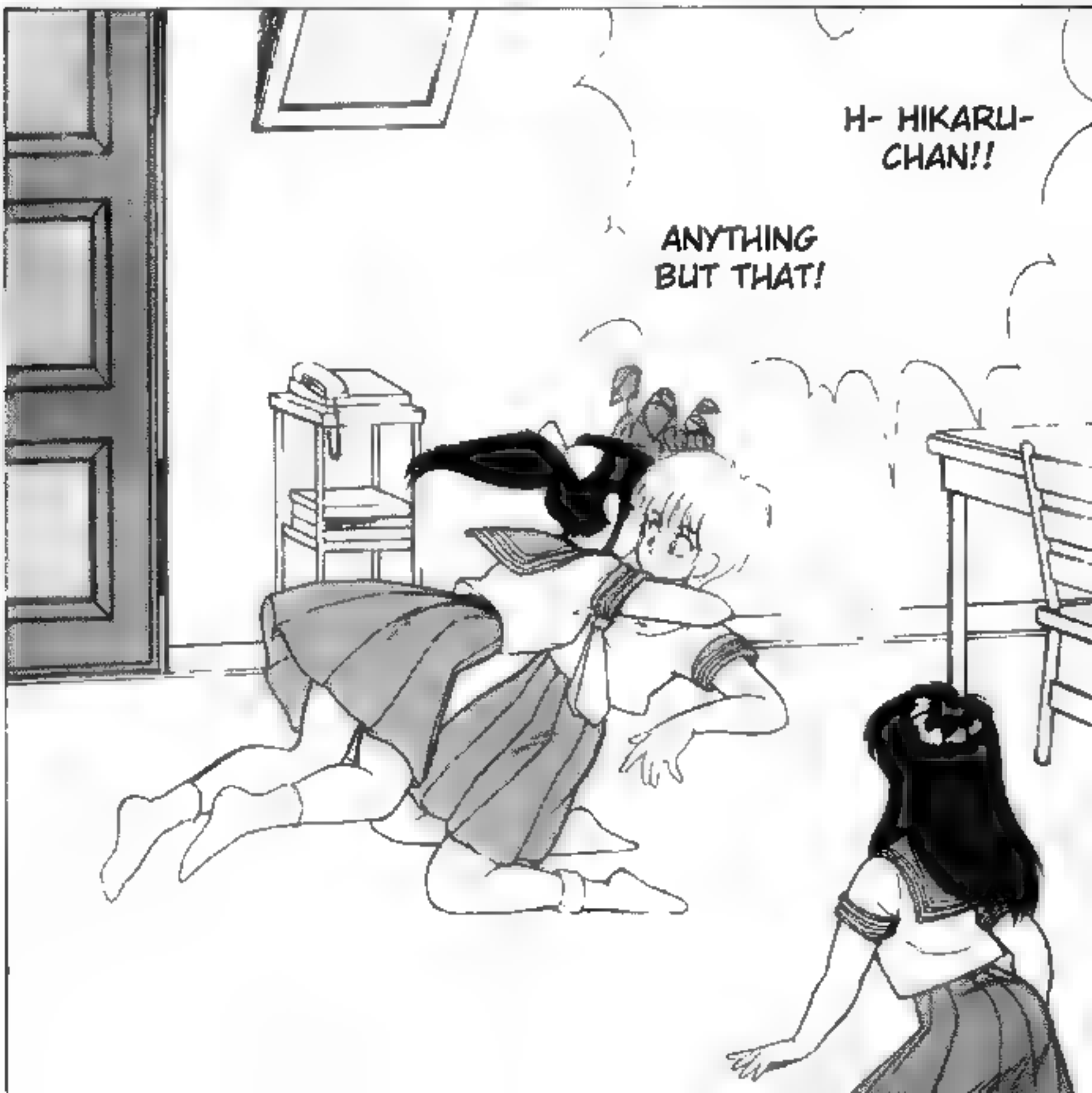
BECAUSE, INSTEAD OF GETTING ANGRY AT HER MIS-UNDERSTANDING, I WAS AMAZED...

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING, HIKARU-CHAN!?

TO THINK THAT OUR ONI-CHAN AND MADOKA-SAN ARE A COUPLE TIED BY UNBREAK-ABLE BONDS...!

.....

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? I'M SURE SHE'LL BURST INTO LAUGHTER AND HER SIDES WILL SURELY ACHE. .
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF EXPRESSION MADOKA-SAN WILL MAKE OVER THIS!?
NEXT TIME, I'LL TELL MADOKA-SAN.


H- HIKARU-CHAN!!
ANYTHING BUT THAT!

MANAMI-CHAN...!?

DID I SAY SOME-THING BAD JUST NOW?

WHAT...? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

"I MIGHT NOT COME BACK AT ALL."

ONLY... IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS, MAYBE...

NOTHING ...

HIKARU-CHAN!

THERE'S . .

JUST ONE THING I WANT TO ASK YOU, HIKARU-CHAN.

WHENEVER I CLEAN THE CLOSET IN ONIICHAN'S ROOM...

WHAT CATCHES MY EYE IS...

CLACK

THIS.

DON'T COME IN, KURUMI!

CLACK

MEANIE! WHY-Y-Y!?

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IS THIS HAT YOURS, HIKARU-CHAN?

WHAT A PRETTY STRAW HAT!

I SEE... JUST AS I THOUGHT.

HUH? NO.

HUH ...?

IS THIS... MADOKA-SAN'S?

WHY!? WHY DOES SEMPAI HAVE THIS!?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ..

THAT IT'S MADOKA-SAN'S?

BECAUSE, EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE... WHENEVER I'VE GONE, THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN HANGING IN MADOKA-SAN'S ROOM.

AFTER ALL, BACK THEN, IT WAS MADOKA-SAN'S MOST TREASURED ITEM, WHICH SHE GOT FROM HER FIRST LOVE.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE BEEN THINKING I HAVEN'T SEEN IT FOR SOME TIME..

AS I RECALL, DID IT HAPPEN AROUND THE TIME YOU TRANSFERRED TO OUR SCHOOL? THIS!?

THAT... HAS BEEN HERE SINCE THE DAY ONIICHAN MOVED IN.

I ASKED ONIICHAN ON THE DAY HE FIRST BROUGHT IT. AND THEN ONIICHAN GOT AWFULLY EMBARRASSED, AND, AS THOUGH HE WERE JOKING, HE SAID THIS...

I FELT SURE ALL ALONG THAT THIS HAT WAS SOMETHING YOU GAVE TO ONIICHAN.

"I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER...!"

"BUT I DON'T KNOW HER NAME OR ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT HER..."

THE HAT YESTERDAY.

I'M SURE HE SAID "HAT" BACK THEN!

THAT'S RIGHT! THE HAT!

Y- YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAVE ME...

COME TO THINK OF IT... THE DAY I FIRST MET SEMPAI IS THE DAY HE TRANSFERRED TO OUR SCHOOL.

AND MADOKA-SAN SAID...

I WOULDN'T KNOW A GUY LIKE THIS!

"IS HE YOUR FRIEND, MADOKA-SAN?"

EH? WHAAAT? AYUKAWA-SAN, IS HE YOUR FRIEND?

AND THEN I ASKED MADOKA-SAN.

BECAUSE IT SEEMED SEMPAI KNEW MADOKA-SAN BACK THEN.

HEY-Y-Y, KURUMI!!

AHHHH, I KNOW! YOU AND MADOKA-SAN WERE SMOKING THEN!

MADOKA-SAN... WHY ..? TELL SUCH A LIE!?

TO BE THOUGHT OF AS A DELIN-QUENT... FOR A GIRL...

PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT! TO THINK THAT SEMPAI... TO BE SEEN SMOKING BY THE ONE I LOVE...

HIKARU-CHAN.

YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO THOUGHT THAT WAY.

CAN THIS BE.. POSSIBLE ...?

AH! HIKARU-CHAN!

I'M... LEAVING !!

SFX: <SPLASHHH>

...NICE TO SEE YOU CAME ALONE.

I'LL SAY IT ONCE MORE GIVE UP ON HIKARU-CHAN!

YOU, TOO

SFX: <WHUMP!>

GRAFFITI: <DIPSHIT DIE!!>

I'LL DO IT TILL I WIN!!

SEVEN TIMES. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE DO THIS, THE RESULT WILL BE THE SAME!!

WITH THIS, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE FOUGHT?

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH FAST!

WELCOME

SPLASH
SPLASH

SFX: <RATTLE>

HIC
FOR BEING ABSENT SEVERAL DAYS WITHOUT NOTICE, MASTER.
SORRY.
STAGGER

HEY, HEY. I'M NOT CAST FOR THIS KIND OF ROLE
WHAT'S THE MATTER!? TO DRINK THIS MUCH...
MADOKA-KUN!!

KASUGA-KUN, THAT IS.

HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND WAS HERE UNTIL A MOMENT AGO...

HUH? DIDN'T YOU SEE HIM?

PLONK

I... HID.

NO...

IF I MEET HIM NOW IF I SEE KASUGA-KUN'S FACE

I DON'T HAVE THE CONFI-DENCE.

WHY...?

I... DON'T KNOW WHAT I MIGHT BLURT OUT...

THANK YOU... MASTER

I DIDN'T HEAR A THING TONIGHT.

AYUKAWA-KUN...

BUT... I DIDN'T FIRE YOU. IT'S A HAPPY RETIRE-MENT!

I WON'T BE A NUISANCE TO YOU, TOO, MASTER ...

THAT'S GOOD.. NOW, I'M A FREE PERSON.

OKAY...

SAY... MASTER, PLEASE FIRE ME

YOUR FRIENDS AND TEACHERS, AND EVERY-ONE, ARE WAITING.

AYUKAWA-KUN... GO BACK TO SCHOOL SOON.

MAYBE I'LL... QUIT SCHOOL AND HAVE A TRY AT MUSIC.

MASTER ...

FOR... HIKARU-CHAN'S SAKE ?

FOR WHO'S SAKE!?

YOU'RE JUST A BIT MISTAKEN

IF THAT'S THE CASE, AYUKAWA-KUN...

C'MON- N-N... TAKING ME SERIOUSLY ...

I WAS JUST KIDDING, MASTER!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...

THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN HIKARU FIRST CALLED KASUGA-KUN HER BOYFRIEND...

SAY... MASTER ...

"I SEE. THEN, DO YOUR BEST. I'LL ROOT FOR YOU!"

I SAID ...

PROMISED... HER.

I DEFI- NITELY...

WAS LONG AND TIRING

THE ROLE OF B G SISTER WHO'S CONCERNED FOR HER LITTLE SISTER ...

YOU HELD UP WELL, AYUKAWA-KUN...

NNN

SAAAAAAAAAA...oo

RATTLE

HIKARU-CHAN!!

O- OH NO... WAS SHE HERE ALL ALONG!?

HIKARU-CHAN...

K- KEEPS SECRETS FROM!?

WHY!? WHY AM I... THE ONE THAT EVERYONE ...

MADOKA-SAN, SEM-PAI AND MASTER, TOO...!!

HIKARU-CHA-A-AN!

SFX <FLEE!>

SFX <SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH>

SEMPA-A-AI!

WAS I COMPLETELY FOOLED BY EVERYONE FOR THREE YEARS!?

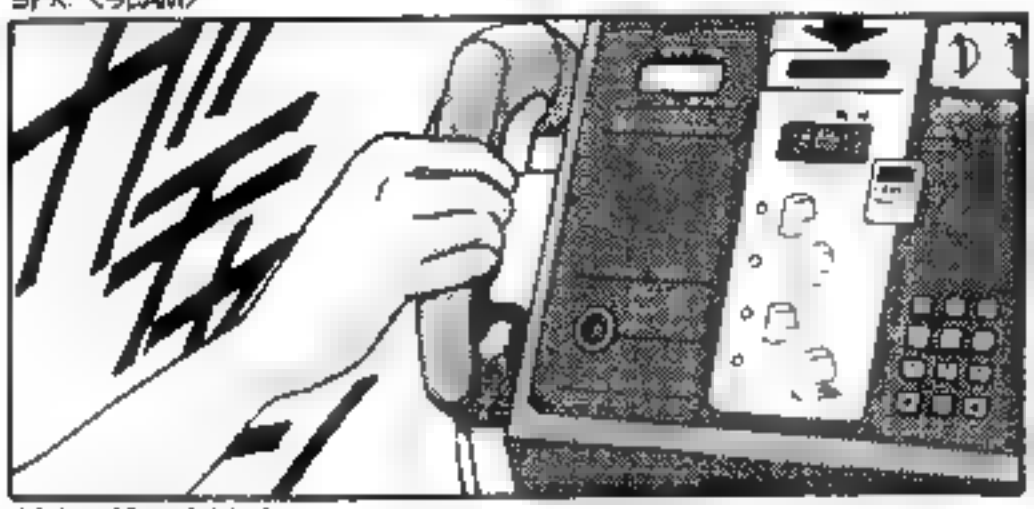
WHAT AM I...!? WAS I MERELY A CLOWN...!?

SPLASH

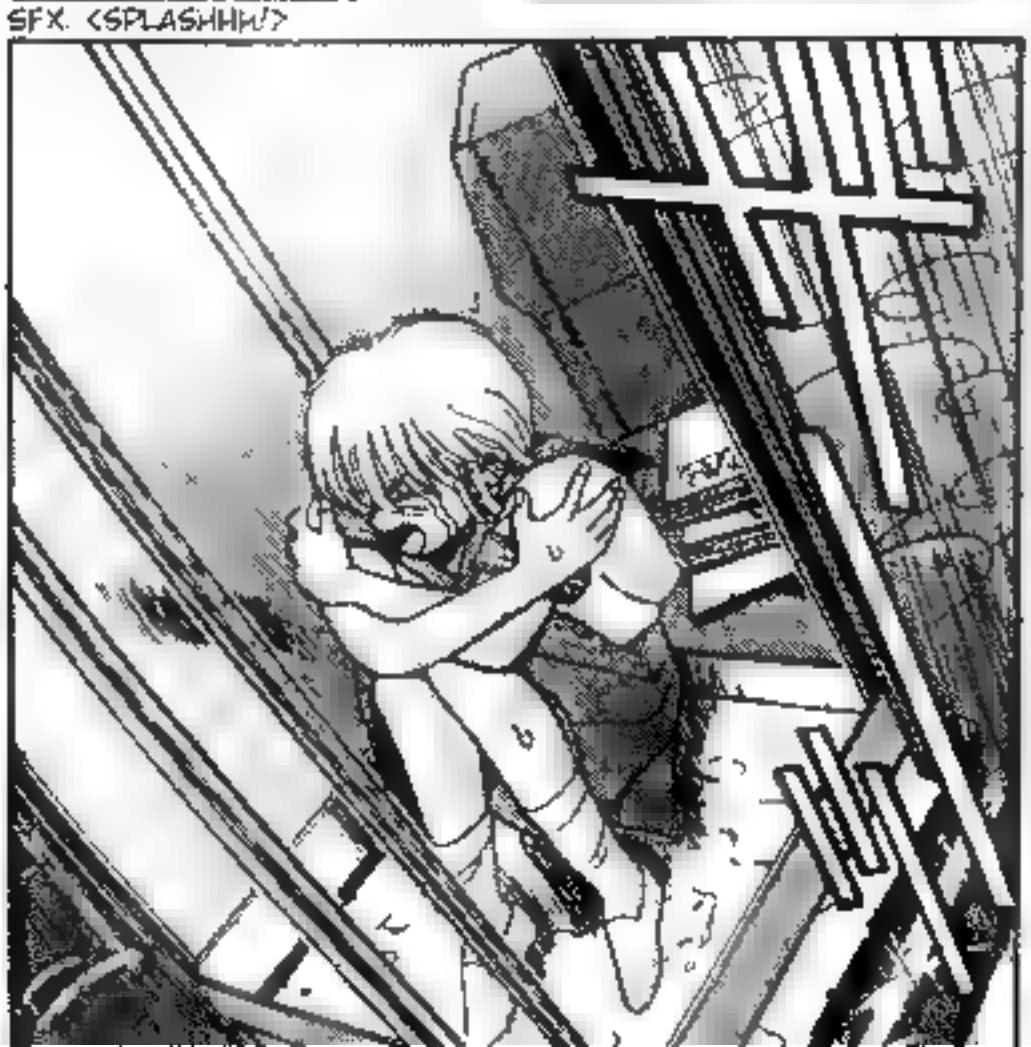
WideBan version - WideBan version - WideBan version

WideBan version

SFX. <SLAM>



SFX. <SPLASHHH!>



I'M SORRY ...

SFX. <SPLASHHH!>

I SEE ...

AND THIS IS A.L... MY FAULT.

IT'S MY PROBLEM ..

IT CAN'T BE HELPED ANY MORE...

I'M SO SORRY ..

SEMPAI...!! SEMPAI, PLEASE TELL ME IT'S A LIE...!!

PLEASE...!

I C-CAN'T GO...!!

THAT MADOKA-SAN... THAT MADOKA-SAN IS THE ONE THAT SEMPAI...!!

I CAN'T GO!! EVEN THOUGH I'M RIGHT HERE UNDER HIS NOSE... EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO SEE HIM...!!

HEY, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER JEEZ. YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A BIG MOUTH.

SHUT UP LEMME GO IT'S EMBARRASSING I CAN WALK BY MYSELF

SPLISH

I JUST CAN'T SEE HIM RIGHT NOW!!

SFX <SPLASHHH>

HIKARU-CHAN!!

WAS RE-
JECTED.

I...

HIKARU-CHAN.

HIC

HIC

THINK I'LL CRY EVERY NIGHT FOR ABOUT A YEAR...

I...

WE'LL BE WAITING FOREVER, FIGHTING LIKE THIS...

YEAH. EVEN IF THAT TAKES 10 OR 20 YEARS...

SO PLEASE LOOK OUR WAY A BIT.

IT'LL STILL BE OKAY WITH US EVEN AFTER THAT LONG A TIME.

COMMENTARY: <IN THE SHOUNEN JUMP VERSION OF THE KOR ENDING, MADOKA DID GET SUSPENDED MATSUMOTO FORGOT TO FIX THIS LINE IN THE COMPILATION VERSION.>

NOT HERE... THAT SUSPENSION* WAS A SHOCK, AFTER ALL...

IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK SINCE THE LAST TIME I SAW AYUKAWA'S FACE...

DING DONG

DING DONG

AND...

ANYWAY, I HAVE TO SEE AYUKAWA AND...

WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU GONE, AYUKAWA ...!?

NO... I HAVEN'T SEEN HER...

I SEE ...

KYOUSUKE-KUN!

RATTLE

FOR NOW... I WISH THEY'D LEAVE HER ALONE.

SHE'S... AN 18-YEAR-OLD GIRL

PEOPLE AROUND HERE ARE MAK'NG TOO MUCH FUSS.

AYUKAWA-KUN... I LEAVE TO YOUR CARE.

BUT KYOUSUKE-KUN.

ALL OF THEM, I SEARCHED THROUGH.

THE PLACES IN THIS TOWN THAT AYUKAWA MIGHT HAVE GONE TO...

SIGN <EMERGENCY EXIT>

TUPIDFUCKIN LATER

DISCO Neptune

FWISHH

STEP

STEP

PLUNK

WE WILL NEVER

SHE IS NOT GONE CAN BRING ME

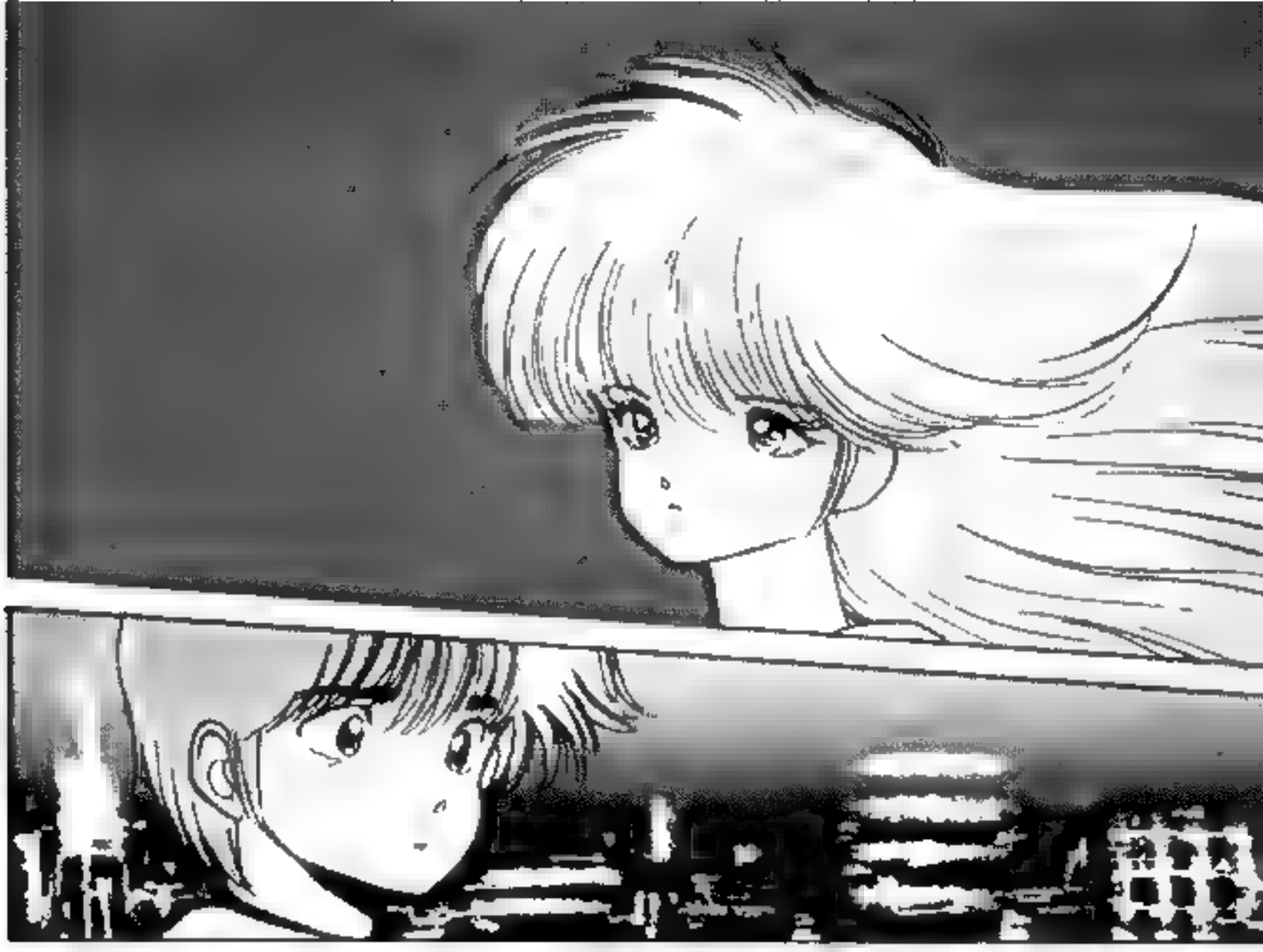
NO NO NO

I WAS WONDERING WHERE THE HECK YOU WENT, AYUKAWA...

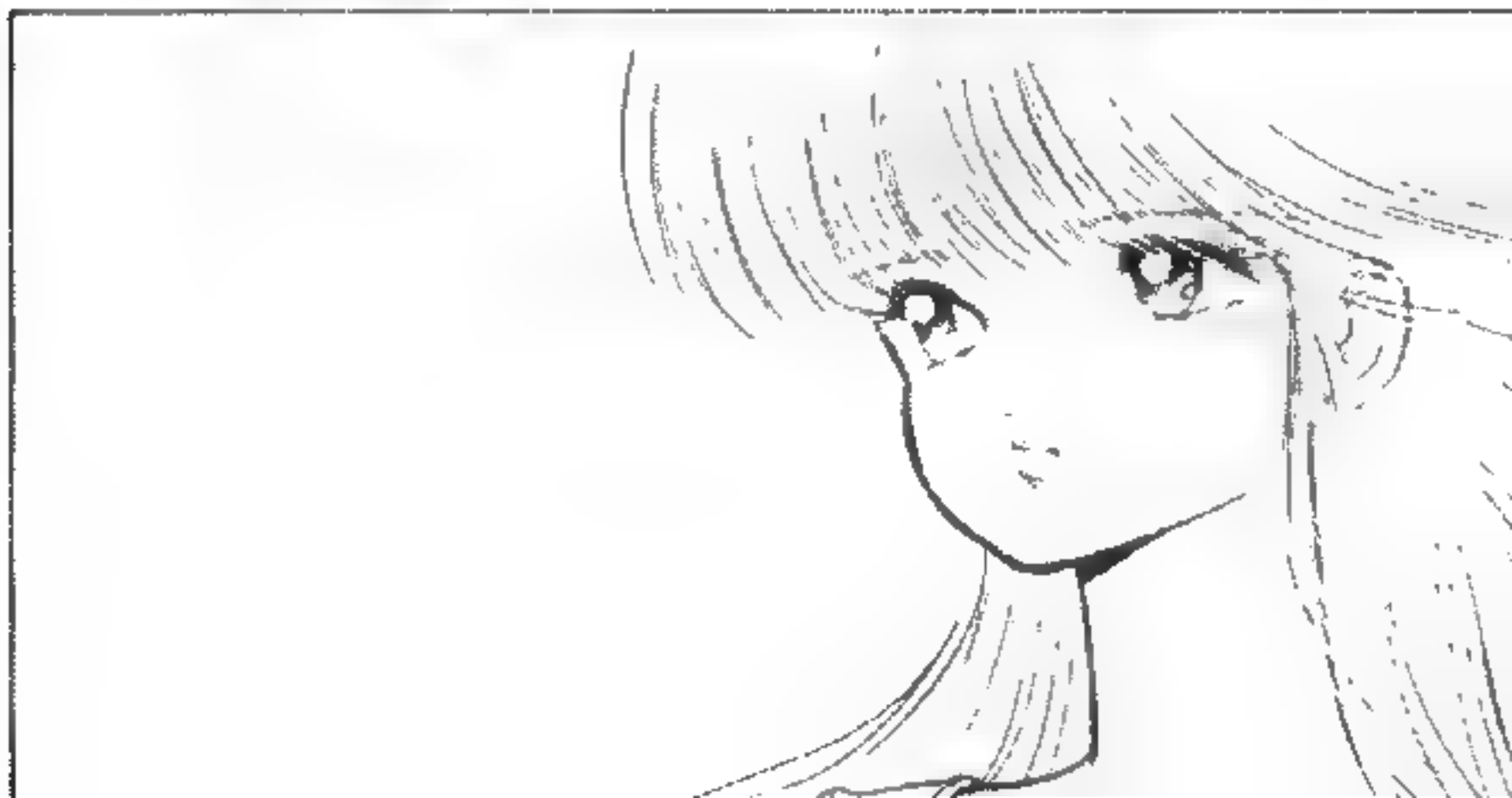
I WAS WORRIED.

I...

I...



I'LL QUIT BEING IN-DECISIVE!
AND...



EH?

IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU TO SAY THAT?

I DE-CIDED ...

TO GO TO AMERICA.

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ORANGE ROAD STUFF CREDIT

		(COMICS NUMBER)
FULL TIME STUFF	Izumi Matsumoto	1～18
	Mitsuru Hirono	1～18
	Kazushi Hagiwara	11～18
	Kazuya Hatta	1～12
	Yusuke Kozima	5～18
	Tetsuyasu Usui	17～18
	Takeshi Okazaki	14～18
	Mamoru Matsushita	17～18
EDITOR [JUMP]	Toshimasa Takahashi	1～18
[JUMP]	Hiroshi Hasegawa	18
[YUKI-DESIGN]	Shigeyuki Aoki	1～18

SPECIAL THANKS

Jun Tomizawa
Tsutomu Hiramatsu
Toshihiro Kuroiwa
Kōzi Maki
Katsuhiro Otomo
etc…

うそだよ～ん!!

And many, many other people…

Thank you!!

The Everlasting Summer

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I'LL... COME BACK WHEN I'M SURE I CAN COME STRAIGHT OUT...

AND SAY MY OWN FEELINGS.

BUT... I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, AYUKAWA.

I STILL... DON'T KNOW.

AND THAT'S... WHEN?

?

I'... WAIT FOREVER

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU'... BE KEPT WAITING ...

I'M... WHIM-SICAL

TO AMERICA !?

A MUSIC SCHOOL IN L.A.! THEY SAID IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO STUDY ABROAD

YES. MY PARENTS HAD A RECOM-MENDATION ...

WHY...? WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN!?

I DON'T WANT TO DESTROY THESE PRECIOUS PEOPLE NOW JUST BECAUSE OF MY OWN SELFISH-NESS.

YOU'RE ALSO IMPORTANT TO ME, KASUGA-KUN AND HIKARU IS AN IMPORTANT SISTER...

MAYBE THAT'S ALL IT IS.

ACTUALLY, IT'S PROBABLY JUST THAT I'M AN AWFUL COWARD.

THAT SOUNDS SO COOL, BUT...

DIFFERENT... FROM THE FEELING I HAVE TOWARDS YOU, AYUKAWA.

I... LIKE HIKARU-CHAN. BUT I THINK OF HER TENDERLY MORE AS AN OLDER BROTHER THAN AS A SWEETHEART... A FEELING LIKE THAT IS A LOT.

"LIKE" OR "LOVE"?

HIKARU-CHAN IS "LIKE"... YOU, AYUKAWA, ARE...

RUMBLE

BUT... HASN'T HIKARU-CHAN COME YET?

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE. JAL FLIGHT 415, DEPARTING AT 2:05 PM, WILL SOON...

HAA

HAA

I'M SORRY I'M LATE! THE BUS WAS CROWDED ...

MADOKA-SA-A-AN!

AHH, I MADE IT IN TIME!

HIKARU!

HIKARU-
CHAN...

I'M SORRY ...

PLEASE STAND UP... SEMPAI.

SEMPAI... I...

AH, THIS HAT!!

HEARD IT ALL FROM MANAMI-CHAN AND KURUMI-CHAN! ABOUT YOU AND MADOKA-SAN!

EH!?

SEMPAI, PLEASE SHUT YOUR EYES AND CLENCH YOUR TEETH!

SFX: <SLAP>

SIGN: <TRAVEL INSURANCE>

EH!?

SEMPAI! I'M BORROWING THIS HAT FOR A BIT!!

NOW... IT'S ALL RIGHT!

EHH!?

WideBan version - WideBan version - WideBan version

WE AREN'T REAL SISTERS, BUT... I CAME TO THINK OF YOU AS MORE THAN A REAL SISTER, MADOKA-SAN!!
NO-O-O! PLEASE DON'T KEEP ANY MORE SECRETS!! ONEESAN!! YOU'RE GOING TO AMERICA BECAUSE OF ME, RIGHT!?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MADOKA-SAN... I...
I HATE YOU!

THEN... NOW... WE'RE FINISHED ...
BECAUSE I WAS AN INCREDIBLY STUPID BIG SISTER, HM?

I FEEL BETTER AFTER SLAPPING HIM.
I'LL... SET SEMPAI FREE.

H- HIKA ...

YOU ACTED AS A GO-BETWEEN FOR SEMPAI AND ME, AND GAVE WAY FOR ME.
BUT, UP TO NOW, YOU .. ALWAYS WENT AND SUFFERED FOR MY SAKE.
AND SO, THIS TIME, I'LL TAKE A STEP BACK.

WideBan version

THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU, MADOKA-SAN!
WHERE ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY TO AFTER TOYING WITH THE FEELINGS OF SEMPAI AND ME!?
ON THE WHOLE, YOU'RE A COWARD, MADOKA-SAN!!

I THINK... THIS CAN'T BE... HAP-PENING TO ME ...
EVEN I... FIND IT PAINFUL WHEN I THINK OF SEMPAI. IT'S HARD... I FEEL SO LONELY...
THAT'S WHY... PLEASE DON'T RUN AWAY...

WideBan version

MADOKA-SAN...

HIKARU ...

MADOKA-SA-A-AN!

THAT YOU WERE THE ONE SEMPAI LIKED...

BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T FRANK WITH ME!

I'M VERY ANGRY!!

HIKA...
RU.

FOR MY SAKE... AND...

AND SO, ONEESAN! PLEASE COME BACK SOON!!

FOR KYOUSUKE-SEMPAI'S SAKE...

SWISH

RUMMMMBLE

AHH, SHE'S GONE

SEMPAI... RIGHT NOW, I STILL... TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, FIND IT HARD TO TALK TO YOU...

BUT I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS FOR MADOKA-SAN.

BECAUSE MADOKA-SAN IS SO WONDERFUL.

SEMPAI... DON'T GIVE UP! I'M SURE MADOKA-SAN WILL RETURN!

UNTIL NOW, I HAD YOU ALL TO MYSELF BUT FROM NOW ON, SEMPAI, I WANT YOU TO BE MORE FREE.

EVERYONE... IS STILL UNREQUITED, HM?

HIKARU-CHAN...

COME TO THINK OF IT, I... STILL HAVEN'T HEARD HOW AYUKAWA FEELS!

HUH!?

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BUT... I'LL WAIT FOR-EVER, AYUKAWA...

BEFORE LONG... THE FOLLOWING SPRING ARRIVED...

I, KASUGA KYOUSUKE, MADE IT SAFELY INTO COLLEGE, AND I WAS FEELING RELIEVED, WHEN...

97!

98!

99!

100!

HAA

HAA

PLOP

HAA

HAA

IT'S 99 STEPS THAT ARE INFINITELY CLOSE TO 100!

YOU MIS-COUNTED AGAIN.

WideBan version - WideBan version - WideBan version

WideBan version - WideBan version - WideBan version

WideBan version - WideBan version - WideBan version

LIKE!

"LIKE" OR "LOVE"?

IT'S INFIN-ITELY ...

STEP

BUT...

EH'?

CLOSE TO LOVE.

HAA

HAA

IT'S 99 STEPS THAT ARE INFINITELY CLOSE TO 100!

YOU MIS-COUNTED AGAIN.

THAT IS INFINITELY CLOSE TO LOVE...

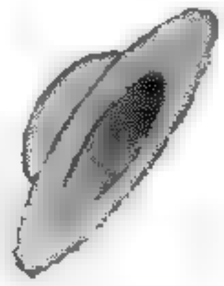
LIKE!

"LIKE" OR "LOVE"?

WILL YOU ANSWER ME?

Summer... no matter how many months and years pass by, we probably won't forget this "season."

April... under the sunlight that would make one doze off, we first met.

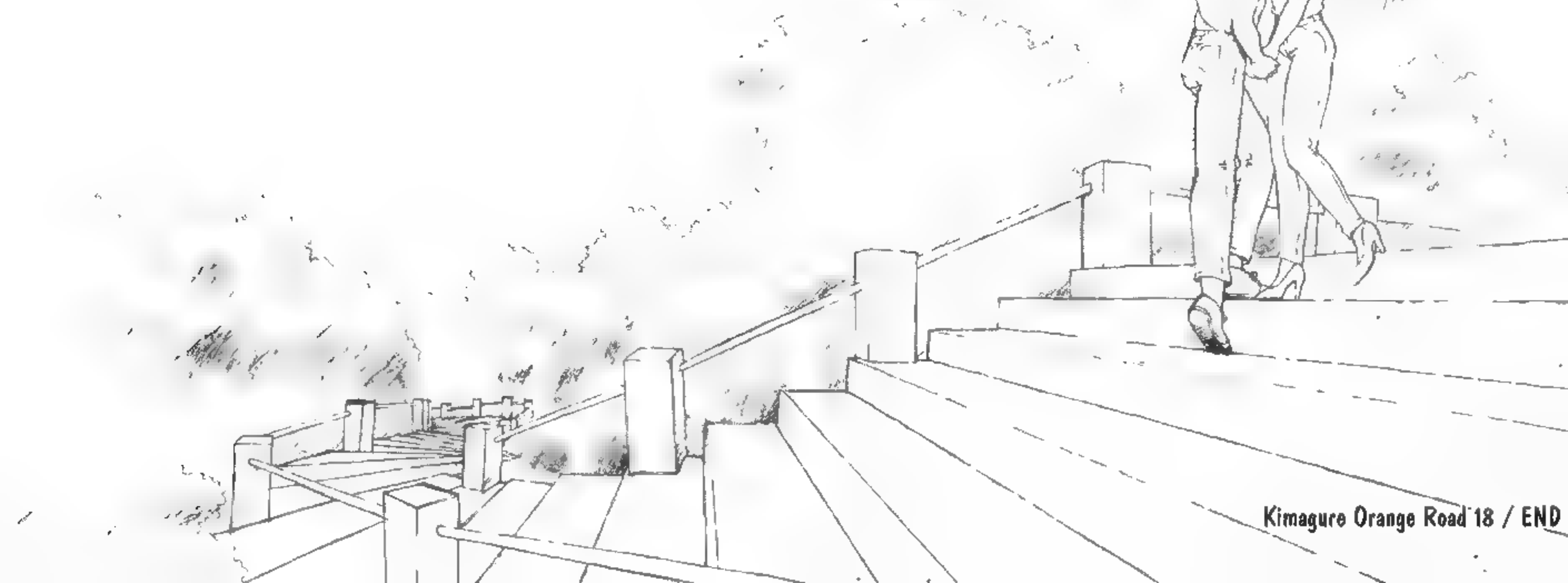


June... in the sparkling light and wind...

August... the hot beach that the two of us ran across...

That wasn't just a passing season, but also the everlasting summer that we passed through.

The 80's that were like a dream...



This throbbing heart... I will not forget.

SAY...
AYUKAWA...

DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN YOU HEAR THIS, OKAY?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M...

JUMP COMICS

きまぐれオレンジ・ロード 18

まつもと泉

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